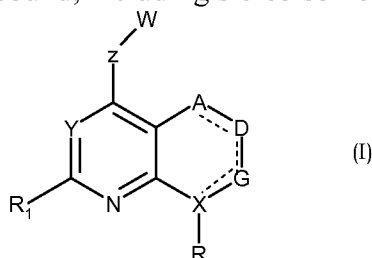


**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. (Currently amended): A compound, ~~including stereoisomers~~, of formula (I)



or a stereoisomer prodrug, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~or solvate~~ thereof, wherein the dashed line may represent a double bond;

R is aryl or heteroaryl, each of which may be substituted by 1 to 4 groups J selected from:

halogen, C1-C6 alkyl, C1-C6 alkoxy, halo C1-C6 alkyl, C2-C6 alkenyl, C2-C6 alkynyl, halo C1-C6 alkoxy, -C(O)R<sub>2</sub>, nitro, hydroxy, -NR<sub>3</sub>R<sub>4</sub>, cyano, and [[or]] a group Z;

R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, C3-C7 cycloalkyl, C1-C6 alkyl, C1-C6 alkoxy, C1-C6 thioalkyl, C2-C6 alkenyl, C2-C6 alkynyl, halo C1-C6 alkyl, halo C1-C6 alkoxy, halogen, NR<sub>3</sub>R<sub>4</sub>, or cyano;

R<sub>2</sub> is a C1-C4 alkyl, -OR<sub>3</sub>, or -NR<sub>3</sub>R<sub>4</sub>;

R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen or C1-C6 alkyl;

R<sub>4</sub> is hydrogen or C1-C6 alkyl;

R<sub>5</sub> is a C1-C6 alkyl, halo C1-C6 alkyl, C1-C6 alkoxy, halo C1-C6 alkoxy, C3-C7 cycloalkyl, hydroxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, -NR<sub>3</sub>R<sub>4</sub>, or -C(O)R<sub>2</sub>;

R<sub>6</sub> is a C1-C6 alkyl, halo C1-C6 alkyl, C1-C6 alkoxy, halo C1-C6 alkoxy, C3-C7 cycloalkyl, hydroxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, -NR<sub>3</sub>R<sub>4</sub>, or -C(O)R<sub>2</sub>;

~~R<sub>7</sub> is hydrogen, C1-C6 alkyl, halogen, halo, or C1-C6 alkyl;~~

- R<sub>8</sub> is hydrogen, C3-C7 cycloalkyl, C1-C6 alkyl, C2-C6 alkenyl, C2-C6 alkynyl, NR<sub>3</sub>R<sub>4</sub>, or cyano;
- R<sub>9</sub> is hydrogen, C3-C7 cycloalkyl, C1-C6 alkyl, C2-C6 alkenyl, C2-C6 alkynyl, NR<sub>3</sub>R<sub>4</sub>, or cyano;
- R<sub>10</sub> is hydrogen, C3-C7 cycloalkyl, C1-C6 alkyl, C2-C6 alkenyl, C2-C6 alkynyl, NR<sub>3</sub>R<sub>4</sub>, or cyano;
- R<sub>11</sub> is hydrogen, C3-C7 cycloalkyl, C1-C6 alkyl, C2-C6 alkenyl, C2-C6 alkynyl, NR<sub>3</sub>R<sub>4</sub>, or cyano;
- R<sub>12</sub> is hydrogen, C3-C7 cycloalkyl, C1-C6 alkyl, C2-C6 alkenyl, C2-C6 alkynyl, NR<sub>3</sub>R<sub>4</sub>, or cyano;
- R<sub>13</sub> is hydrogen, C3-C7 cycloalkyl, C1-C6 alkyl, C2-C6 alkenyl, C2-C6 alkynyl, NR<sub>3</sub>R<sub>4</sub>, or cyano;
- R<sub>14</sub> is R<sub>3</sub> or -C(O)R<sub>2</sub>;
- D is CR<sub>8</sub>R<sub>9</sub> or is CR<sub>8</sub> when double bonded with G or A;
- G is CR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub> or is CR<sub>10</sub> when double bonded with D ~~or is CR<sub>10</sub> when double bonded with X when X is carbon;~~
- A is CR<sub>12</sub>R<sub>13</sub> or is CR<sub>12</sub> when double bonded with D;
- X is ~~carbon or~~ nitrogen;
- Y is nitrogen ~~or CR<sub>7</sub>~~;
- W is a 4-8 carbocyclic membered ring, which may be saturated or may contain one to three double bonds, and

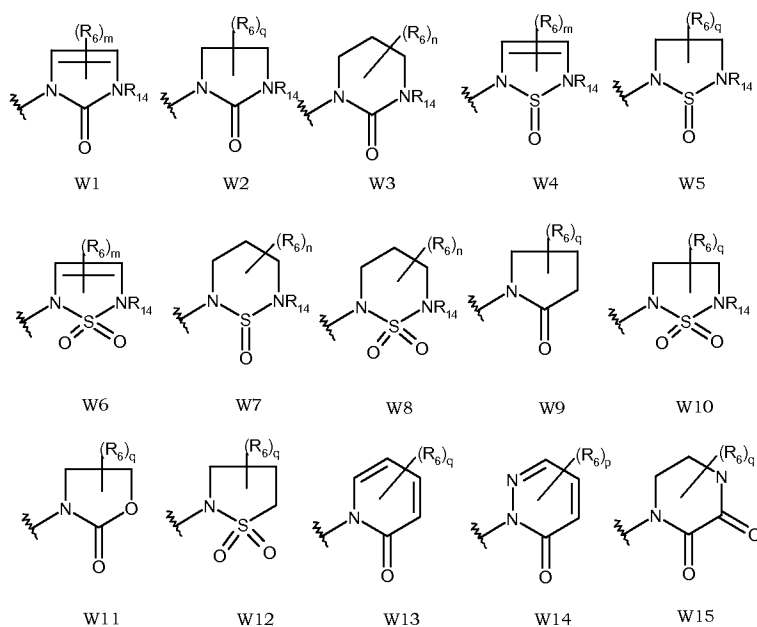
in which:

- one carbon atom is replaced by a carbonyl or S(O)<sub>m</sub>; and
- one to four carbon atoms may optionally be replaced by oxygen, nitrogen or NR<sub>14</sub>, S(O)<sub>m</sub>, carbonyl, and such ring may be further substituted by 1 to 8 R<sub>6</sub> groups;

Z is a 5-6 membered heterocycle or a phenyl, which may be substituted by 1 to 8  $R_5$  groups; and

m is an integer from 0 to 2.

2. (Currently amended): A compound according to claim 1, in which W is selected from the following groups:



in which:

W1 represents a 1,3-dihydro-2H-imidazol-2-one derivative;

W2 represents a imidazolidin-2-one derivative;

W3 represents a tetrahydropyrimidin-2(1H)-one derivative;

W4 represents a 2,5-dihydro-1,2,5-thiadiazole 1-oxide derivative;

W5 represents a 1,2,5-thiadiazolidine 1-oxide derivative;

W6 represents a 2,5-dihydro-1,2,5-thiadiazole 1,1-dioxide derivative;

W7 represents a 1,2,6-thiadiazinane 1-oxide derivative;

W8 represents a 1,2,6-thiadiazinane 1,1-dioxide derivative;

W9 represents a pyrrolidin-2-one derivative;

W10 represents a 2,5-dihydro-1,2,5-thiadiazolidine 1,1-dioxide derivative;

W11 represents a 1,3-oxazolidin-2-one derivative;

W12 represents a isothiazolidine 1,1-dioxide derivative;

W13 represents a 2(1H)-pyridinone derivative;

W14 represents a 3(2H)-pyridazinone;

W15 represents a 2,3-piperazinedione derivative;

and q is an integer from 0 to 4; n is an integer from 0 to 6; p is an integer from 0 to 3; and

m, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>14</sub> are defined as in claim 1; ~~or a prodrug, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.~~

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended): A compound according to claim 1, ~~selected from the following group:~~ which is 1-{1-[8-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-2-methyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydropyrido[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-4-yl]-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl}-2-imidazolidinone;

~~1-{1-[8-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-2-methyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-4-quinazolinyl]-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl}-2-imidazolidinone; and~~

~~1-{1-[8-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-2-methyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-1,8-naphthyridin-4-yl]-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl}-2-imidazolidinone; or a prodrug, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.~~

Claims 5-9 (Canceled).

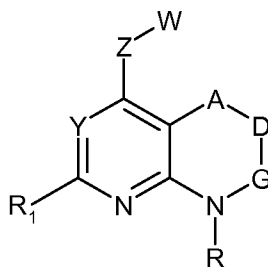
10. (Currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1, ~~or a prodrug, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof,~~ in admixture with one or more physiologically acceptable carriers or excipients.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended): A method ~~in~~ for the treatment of depression ~~and~~ or anxiety, comprising administration of an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, ~~or a prodrug, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof,~~ to a mammal in need thereof.

13. (Currently amended): A method, ~~in~~ for the treatment of IBS (irritable bowel disease) ~~and IBD (inflammatory bowel disease),~~ comprising administration of an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, ~~or a prodrug, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof,~~ to a mammal in need thereof.

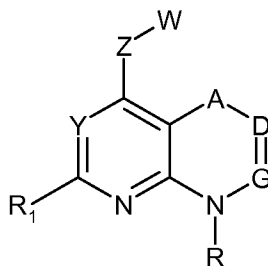
14. (New) A compound according to formula (Ia)



(Ia)

in which R, R<sub>1</sub>, Z, Y, W, A, D, G are defined as in claim 1.

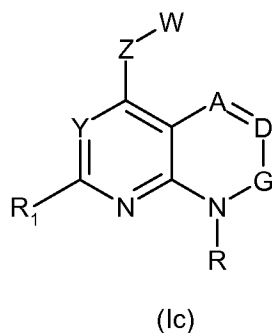
15. (New) A compound according to formula (Ib)



(Ib)

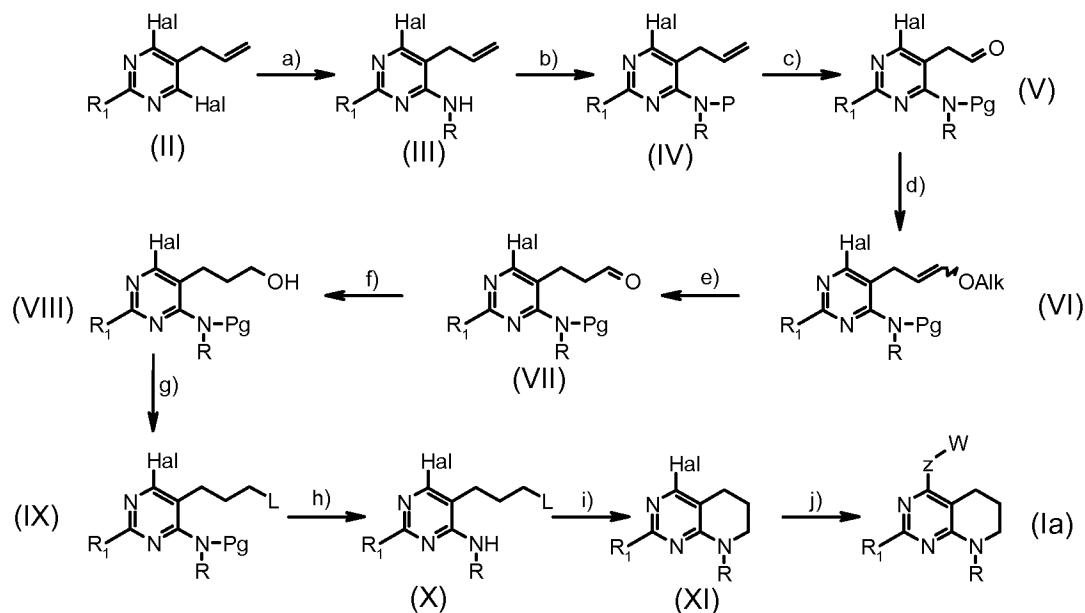
in which R, R<sub>1</sub>, Z, Y, W, A, D, G are defined as in claim 1.

16. (New) A compound according to formula (Ic)



in which R, R<sub>1</sub>, Z, Y, W, A, D, G are defined as in claim 1.

17. (New) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 14 comprising the following steps:



in which

step a stands for the nucleophilic substitution with an amine of compounds of formula (II), in basic conditions to give compounds (III);

- step b stands for the protection of the amino group with a protecting group;
- step c stands for the oxidation of the double bond with an oxidizing agent to give the aldehyde of compounds (V);
- step d + e stands for formation of the aldehyde group of compounds (VII) through formation of the enol ether by Wittig reaction followed by acid hydrolysis (step e);
- step f stands for the reduction of the aldehyde group of compounds (VII) to the alcohol of compounds (VIII) with a reducing agent;
- step g stands for the conversion of the alcohol of compounds (VIII) into a leaving group;
- step h stands for the deprotection of the amino group of compounds (IX);
- step i stands for the intramolecular cyclization to give the cyclized compounds (X); and
- step j stands for conversion of the halogen derivative into compounds (Ia), by reaction with a reactive -Z-W derivative, in basic conditions.